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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ALBERTO MORALES, 38, Tijuana, Mexico, and Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to distribution of cocaine hydrochloride. This case was developed from a four-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Customs Service, Indiana State Police, Indianapolis Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted

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the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed eight years supervised release following MORALES' imprisonment; however, MORALES will be deported from the United States upon completion of his prison sentence.

The investigation that implicated MORALES' cocaine trafficking activity involved a methamphetamine trafficking organization operating in Indianapolis. The organization, headed by Ramon Montero, trafficked approximately 300 pounds of methamphetamine per month in the Indianapolis area from the summer of 2001 through December 6, 2002.

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